



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

December 7, 2018

Howard Strand, Field Office Director  
Office of Surface Mining  
1999 Broadway, Suite 3320  
Denver, CO 80202-3050

Subject: Final Phase III Bond Release, Plateau Mining, LLC, Willow Creek Mine, Final 1.19 Acres, C/007/0038, Task ID #5773

Dear Mr. Strand:

Enclosed is the Division's Decision Document for the Phase III bond release of the final 1.19 remaining acres at Plateau Mining, LLC's Willow Creek Mine. Plateau Mining has requested bond release. The Division finds Plateau Mining has met the regulatory requirements for Phase III bond release and recommends approval. We request the Office of Surface Mining's concurrence with this determination. A copy of the Phase III bond release inspection report is included in this package along with the documentation of events. Please provide your determination at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron Haddock  
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs  
Enclosure

cc: Alexis Long, OSM Denver field office  
Dennis Ware, Plateau Mining

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Remaining 1.19 Acres  
Phase III Bond Release  
Plateau Mining, LLC  
Willow Creek Mine  
C/007/0038  
Carbon County, Utah

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### Decision Document

- \* Action
- \* Background
- \* Chronology
- \* Summary of Findings
- \* Recommendation for Phase III Bond Release

### Technical Analysis

### Affidavit of Publication

### Phase III Bond Release Inspection Report

### BLM Letter of Concurrence

## **DECISION DOCUMENT**

Remaining 1.19 Acres  
Phase III Bond Release  
Plateau Mining, LLC  
Willow Creek Mine  
C/007/0038  
Carbon County, Utah

### **ACTION**

Final Phase III bond release is requested for the remaining 1.19 acres at the Willow Creek Mine. The Permittee has applied for bond release of the remaining posted bond in the amount of \$10,452.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Willow Creek Mine is located approximately 4 miles north of Helper, Utah where the Price River and Willow Creek have cut canyons through the western Book Cliffs Coal Field.

Following the permanent cessation of operations in 2001, Plateau Mining Corporation began the reclamation of the Willow Creek Mine. By the fall of 2004, all demolition, earthwork, drainage construction and final seeding was completed on all but 1.17 acres within the disturbed area boundary referred to as the Loadout. Reclamation of the loadout area was subsequently completed in 2005. In 2007, settling of the fill in the eastern most shaft in Crandall Canyon, required addition work. An area comprising of 1.19 acres was re-disturbed and then reclaimed and reseeded in 2008. Plateau Mining Corporation received Phase III bond release approval on all but the 1.19 acres on October 15, 2015. The remaining 1.19 acres has met the required liability period. Plateau Mining, LLC is now seeking final bond release on the remaining 1.19 acres.

### **CHRONOLOGY FOR PHASE III BOND RELEASE**

October 11, 2018	Plateau Mining, LLC sends letters to local governments, planning agencies, surface owners, and subsurface owners, notifying them of the proposed bond release: Carbon County Planning and Zoning Blackhawk Coal Company, Director Land Management Helper City Carbon County Commissioners Price River Water Improvement District Bureau of Land Management SITLA, Director State of Utah Department of Transportation Snow, Christensen & Martineau State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources State of Utah Division of Water Rights Office of Surface Mining, Field Office Director
October 18, 2018	Plateau Mining, LLC submits the Final Phase III bond release application for the Willow Creek Mine remaining 1.19 acres.
October 17, 24, 31 and November 7, 2018	Phase III Bond Release Published in the ETV Newspaper.
October 23, 2018	The Division sends letters of invitation for the bond release inspection to be held October 30, 2018.
October 30, 2018	Phase III bond release inspection. In attendance: Plateau Mining, LLC: Dennis Ware Division of Oil, Gas & Mining: Joe Helfrich, Justin Eatchel, Keenan Storrar, Daron Haddock Bureau of Land Management: Steve Rigby
December 7, 2018	Public comment period closes. The Division receives no comments.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The Phase III bond release was advertised for four consecutive weeks. No comments were received during the public comment period. A bond release inspection was conducted on October 30, 2018. No problems were identified. The technical analysis for the final Phase III bond release is attached.

## **PHASE III BOND RELEASE RECOMMENDATION**

The Permittee has demonstrated the establishment of vegetation at the remaining 1.19 acres. The recommendation is that the Division approve the final Phase III bond release for the Willow Creek Mine. The Permittee has applied for a bond release for the remaining posted bond in the amount of \$10,452.



## Technical Analysis and Findings

### Utah Coal Regulatory Program

**PID:** C0070038  
**TaskID:** 5773  
**Mine Name:** WILLOW CREEK MINE  
**Title:** PHASE III FINAL BOND RELEASE

#### Reclamation Plan

##### Hydrological Information Reclamation Plan

###### Analysis:

The application meets the State of Utah R645 requirements for Hydrologic Reclamation.

The Willow Creek mine application for Phase III bond release meets the minimum hydrologic requirements for reclamation for the remaining permit area. The area of the old filled shaft is adequately stabilized with vegetation. The stabilization efforts of pocking the reclaimed surface greatly aided in the re-vegetation efforts. No contributions of suspended solids to streamflow adjacent to the Phase III bond release reclaimed area will occur.

The application includes Attachment 2, providing Sediment Yield Calculations for the reclaimed area. The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) is used to show sediment yield rates in the reclaimed area are less than reference area sediment yields. The decrease in sediment yields is attributed to reduced slope lengths from pocking and thick vegetation cover within the Phase III bond release area

kstorrar

##### Revegetation Standards for Success

###### Analysis:

The application meets the State of Utah R645 requirements for phase III bond release and standards for success.

Pertinent regulations include R645-301-880.300 (phase III bond release) and R645-301-356 (standards for success).

The Division received an application for phase III bond release on the remaining 1.19 acres at the Crandall Canyon shaft reclaimed area on October 18th. The application included qualitative and quantitative vegetation sampling data for years nine and ten of the reclamation liability period. The data showed that total living cover, woody species density, annual production and diversity was greater than that of the reference area.

The on site evaluation of the reclaimed area indicated that the site was stable with well established vegetation.

The application is recommended for approval.

jhelfric

##### Bonding and Insurance General

###### Analysis:

The application meets the State of Utah R645 requirements for General Bonding and Insurance.

The application satisfies the minimum requirements of R645-301-880 because bond release calculations in Attachment 6 of the bond release application have indicated that the current performance bond of \$10,452 will be reduced to zero dollars, and all other pertinent documentation is intact. On Tuesday, October 30, 2018 the Division visited the 1.19 acre site to ensure the reclamation efforts had been completed successfully as per requirements in R645-301-880.210.

jeatchel

PROOF OF PUBLICATION AFFIDAVIT

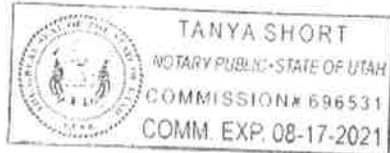
I, Scottie Draper, being first duly sworn, state that I am the Publisher of ETV 10 News, a weekly newspaper of general circulation published at Price, County of Carbon, State of Utah; and that the advertisement or notice, a printed copy of which is attached hereto, was printed and published in said newspaper for four issues and on [www.utahlegals.com](http://www.utahlegals.com) website on the same day as the first newspaper publication date as follows:

October 17, 2018

Scottie Draper

Scottie Draper, Editor

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018



Tanya Short

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

08-17-2021



**Public Notice**

**Application for Phase III Bond Release for 1.19 Acres  
Plateau Mining, LLC, Willow Creek Mine  
Permit C/007/0038, Renewed 04/24/2016**

Notice is hereby given that Plateau Mining, LLC, P.O. Box 592, Orangeville, Utah 84537, has filed an application with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for phase III bond release for the final 1.19 acres of reclaimed land in the Willow Creek Mine Permit, C/007/0038. Plateau Mining Corporation has completed phase III of the approved reclamation plan for 1.19 acres in the Willow Creek Mine Permit based on meeting the vegetation and water quality requirements for phase III reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. In order to receive phase III bond release the Permittee must demonstrate that, (1) the vegetation on the reclaimed site has been established in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and (2) that no part of the land is contributing suspended solids to the stream flow or runoff outside the permit area in excess of the requirements set by UCA 40-10-17(2) (j) of the Act or by R645-301-751 of the rules.

In accordance with the provision of R645-301-880 and R645-301-400 of the State of Utah Coal Mining Rules, notice is hereby given that Plateau Mining, LLC is applying for total release of the surety bond posted for this 1.19 acres, the surety bond is \$10,452.

The permit area is shown on the Kyune U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute maps. The portion of the permit area that is affected contains a total of 1.19 acres and is located in Carbon County, Utah as follows:

Township 12 South, Range 9 East  
Section 28: Portions of NE1/4 S1/2 Containing 1.19 Acres

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining will now evaluate the proposal to determine whether it meets all the criteria of the Permanent Program Performance Standards according to the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Written comments, objections and requests for public hearing or informal conference on this proposal may be addressed to:

Utah Coal Program  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
P.O. Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Closing date for submission of such comments, objections and requests for public hearing or informal conference on this proposal must be submitted by December 07, 2018.

Published in the ETV Newspaper October 17, 24 and 31, and November 7, 2018.



**GARY R. HERBERT**  
Governor

**GREG BELL**  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**MICHAEL R. STYLER**  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

**JOHN R. BAZA**  
Division Director

## Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070038
Inspection Type:	BOND RELEASE
Inspection Date:	Tuesday, October 30, 2018
Start Date/Time:	10/30/2018 1:00:00 PM
End Date/Time:	10/30/2018 3:00:00 PM
Last Inspection:	Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Inspector: Daron Haddock

Weather: Sunny, Cool & Dry

InspectionID Report Number: 6277

Accepted by: DHADDOCK  
11/21/2018

#### Representatives Present During the Inspection:

Company	Dennis Ware
OGM	Joe Helfrich
OGM	Justin Eatchel
OGM	Keenan Storrar
OGM	Daron Haddock
BLM	Steve Rigby

Permitee: **PLATEAU MINING, LLC**

Operator: **PLATEAU MINING, LLC**

Site: **WILLOW CREEK MINE**

Address: **PO BOX 30, HELPER UT 84526-0030**

County: **CARBON**

Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**

Permit Status: **INACTIVE**

#### Current Acreages

1.19	Total Permitted
1.19	Total Disturbed
187.85	Phase I
187.85	Phase II
186.66	Phase III

#### Mineral Ownership

- ☒ Federal  
☐ State  
☐ County  
☒ Fee  
☒ Other

#### Types of Operations

- ☒ Underground  
☐ Surface  
☒ Loadout  
☐ Processing  
☐ Reprocessing

#### Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments:

This was the Phase III bond release inspection on the remaining 1.19 acres of permit at the Willow Creek Mine. 186.66 acres had previously gone through the bond release process and this area is the last bit of disturbance that remained to go through bond release. The Willow Creek mine was located approximately 4 miles north of Helper, Utah and had taken over the operations of the Castle Gate mine in 1996. Willow Creek mine only operated a short time when a combustion event forced the closure of the mine. Following the permanent cessation of operation in 2001, Plateau Mining Corporation began reclamation which was completed by 2006. In 2007 a significant amount of settlement occurred in the eastern shaft of the Crandall Canyon area. The repair project undertaken in 2008, re-disturbed 1.19 acres and restarted the bond clock for this small area. (Reclamation must be completed for 10 years in order to achieve final bond release.) Rebecca Anderson and Andrea Johnson with the BLM were also in attendance.

*Daron A. Haddock*

Inspector's Signature:

Date Friday, November 2, 2018

Daron Haddock,

Inspector ID Number: 28

Note: This inspection report is the property of the State of Utah and is loaned to you for your use only. It is not to be reproduced or distributed without the written permission of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.  
 telephone (801) 538-5340 • facsimile (801) 359-3940 • TTY (801) 538-7458 • www.ogm.utah.gov



Permit Number: C0070038  
 Inspection Type: BOND RELEASE  
 Inspection Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

## Inspection Continuation Sheet

Page 2 of 3

### REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - a. For COMPLETE inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check Not Applicable.
  - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments.

	Evaluated	Not Applicable	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Signs and Markers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Topsoil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disposal of Excess Spoil, Fills, Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Noncoal Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Slides and Other Damage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Contemporaneous Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Backfilling And Grading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Subsidence Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Cessation of Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: Drainage Controls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Other Transportation Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS check	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Air Quality Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Bonding and Insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale**

In 2015 the Willow Creek mine received phase III bond release on the majority of the mine site, (94.21 acres) leaving only the 1.19 acres remaining in the disturbed area. Plateau Mining, LLC has now applied for final bond release on the remaining 1.19 acres.

**3. Topsoil**

Topsoil had been distributed on the entire 1.19 acres.

**4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures**

The area of the old filled shaft is adequately stabilized with vegetation. The stabilization efforts of pocking the reclaimed surface greatly aided in the re-vegetation efforts. No contributions of suspended solids to streamflow adjacent to the Phase III bond release reclaimed area will occur.

**8. Noncoal Waste**

The site was clean, with no trash left.

**10. Slides and Other Damage**

A debris flow had occurred in an adjacent drainage, as a result of some very heavy rain in the area. Large (car size) boulders were washed out of the drainage, which gives the reader an idea of the magnitude of the storm, however the permit area held up well and showed no sign of erosion. The debris flow was outside of the bond release area and is not the responsibility of the mine company.

**12. Backfilling And Grading**

The site has been graded to meet the approximate original contour. The area of disturbance has been reclaimed and blends in well with the surrounding area.

**13. Revegetation**

The Division received an application for phase III bond release on the remaining 1.19 acres at the Crandall Canyon shaft reclaimed area on October 18th. The application included qualitative and quantitative vegetation sampling data for years nine and ten of the reclamation liability period. The data showed that total living cover, Woody species density, annual production and diversity was greater than that of the reference area.

The on site evaluation of the reclaimed area indicated that the site was stable with well established vegetation.

**14. Subsidence Control**

There does not appear to be any ground movement anywhere within the 1.19 acre site. No tension cracks are present and the topsoil appears stable and undisturbed.





















United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Green River District

Price Field Office

125 South 600 West

Price, UT 84501

<http://www.blm.gov/utah>



In Reply Refer To:  
3400 (MWG) UTG02300  
Utah: C/007/0038

NOV 01 2018

Daron R. Haddock, Coal Program Manager  
State of Utah  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Mr. Haddock,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates the opportunity to visit the Crandall Canyon portion of the Willow Creek Mine site on October 30, 2018, for the purpose of reviewing the site for Phase III bond release, applied for by Plateau Mining Corp.

While the large majority of the mine site had already achieved the Phase III release, the small area (1.19 acres) used for backfilling the ventilation shaft only recently achieved the 10-year monitoring status required by the Division.

The BLM concurs with the release of the \$10,452.00 bond, held by the Division, in its entirety, as the site has been well reclaimed and vegetation has been successfully re-established.

Please contact Mike Glasson of my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Conrad  
Field Manager

cc: Green River District Office  
Utah State Office

Dennis Ware, Plateau Mining LLC  
PO Box 592  
Orangeville, UT 84537